

spiritual growth so she became a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend J. I. Ross. Eager to serve, she became a doorkeeper at the Church. She also served as an assistant chief to the usher board. She later formed the now Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Charlie E. Smith.

Ada also enjoys singing and praying; especially praying because she will pray for anyone. During her forty years at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she was a member of the Willing Workers where she served as president for one term and then vice-president. As also a member of the Prayer Band, she worked on several committees including Women's Days.

Currently she is a member of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville. She is an exemplary figure for both the young and the old of her parish.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Ada Manuel today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live such a full life as she has; she is truly a great lady. Her family and friends must be very proud, and I thank her for continuing to serve the community.

#### COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I commend the House and the Appropriations Committee for passing the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill last week.

Back in January, I signed a bi-partisan letter along with 39 of my colleagues calling for an increase in NASA's budget. The President requested \$17.3 billion, an increase of over \$1 billion from FY 2007 enacted levels. Subsequently, 23 CEOs of our country's top aerospace companies wrote Congress calling for a top-line increase in NASA's budget.

I'm happy to report that Appropriations Committee not only listened but acted. This bill contains over \$17.6 billion for our space program, \$1.3 billion above current levels and \$313 million on top of the President's request. The bill moves ahead with construction of our next generation human space vehicle, while ensuring that our current vehicle, the Space Shuttle, is fully funded so that it can continue to fly safely, complete construction of the International Space Station (ISS), and service the Hubble Space Telescope. It also restores funding for important missions in space science and aeronautics.

Some of my colleagues who don't have an active space constituency in their district might ask why should we spend this amount of

money on NASA? Quite simply, NASA programs are about investing in our country's future—our future from a scientific standpoint given all the agency does to promote and to inspire young people to study science, math and engineering; our future economically given the agency's development and support for new industries, just think of how many folks are watching this debate as a result of space-based communications; and lastly, our future from a national security standpoint.

Let me go into that last point in more detail. My colleagues are well aware of China's irresponsible and provocative anti-satellite weapons test. Debris from that test is now floating in orbit and presents a real threat to our space-based assets. But my colleagues may be less aware of China's plans for manned space exploration. China has already flown humans in orbit and has stated plans to build a space craft to land people on the Moon. Thirty years ago we were in a space race with the Russians. Now, our main competitor is the Chinese. Frankly, I do not want to see the American flag on the Moon supplanted by the Chinese flag. That remains a real possibility if we do not properly fund NASA. This bill contains the full request for development of the next generation U.S. human space flight vehicle to get us back to the Moon and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to point out one area in the bill where we could make some improvements once we get into Conference with the Senate. The ISS faces \$20 million in reductions from the President's request in reserve funding and crew and cargo services. Given that we are entering into the most critical phase of construction, I believe it is vital that we fully fund the ISS. So I hope the Committee will be able to restore these funds.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations  
African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Africa Command, focusing on a new strategic relationship with Africa.

SD-419

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1677, to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Coordination Act of 1988, and original bills entitled, "Housing Assistance Authorization Act", "Private Student Loan Transparency and Improvement Act", and "Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance Act".

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine recent advances in clean coal technology, focusing on the prospects for deploying these technologies at a commercial scale in the near future.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. S. 625, to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, and S. 1858, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

Room to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 680, to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. 1000, to enhance the Federal Telework Program, S. 1446, to amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to authorize additional Federal contributions for maintaining and improving the transit system of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, S. 547, to establish a Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security for Management, S. 1245, to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 2570, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1732, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, as the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office", S. 1781, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office", H.R. 2127, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the "Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building", H.R. 2563, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at